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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
Reconvened fortieth session
Vienna, 3 and 4 December 1997
Agenda item 11*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Note by the Executive Director

1. At its thirty-sixth session, in 1993, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 13 (XXXVI) in which it established a budget cycle for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and a methodology that it would follow in its consideration of budgetary matters. According to that budget cycle, the Commission is called upon to approve the final budget for the current biennium and the initial budget for the next biennium for the Fund of UNDCP at its reconvened sessions, held in December of odd years. At its sessions held in the first half of odd years, the Commission is called upon to review and approve the revised programme budget for the current biennium and the proposed outline for the next biennium.

2. At its fortieth session, in 1997, the Commission adopted resolution 6 (XL), in which it approved the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 for the Fund and took note of the proposed outline for the biennium 1998-1999.

3. In its decision 1997/234, the Economic and Social Council decided that a reconvened session of the Commission should take place in December 1997 to approve the initial programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and the second and final revision of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 for the Fund.

4. The Economic and Social Council also decided that similar reconvened sessions should in future be held in December of odd years to approve the initial programme budget for the following biennium and the final version of the programme budget for the biennium that is drawing to a close, and to deal with any related administrative or budgetary matters.

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*E/CN.7/1997/1.

5. For its consideration of agenda item 11 at its reconvened fortieth session the Commission will have before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Executive Director on administrative and budgetary matters (E/CN.7/1997/13/Rev.1);

(b) Proposed final biennial support budget for 1996-1997 and proposed initial biennial support budget for 1998-1999 (E/CN.7/1997/14);

(c) Proposed final programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and proposed initial programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (E/CN.7/1997/15);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (E/CN.7/1997/16);

(e) Consultancies in 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/CRP.16);

(f) Common auditing standards (E/CN.7/1997/CRP.17);

(g) Compendium of ongoing projects by programme for the bienniums 1996-1997 and 1998-1999 (E/CN.7/1997/CRP.18);

(h) Procurement of goods and services in 1996 (E/CN.7/1997/CRP.19).

6. In view of the fact that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as been requested to act as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control to be held in 1998, the opinion has been expressed by several delegations that more time will be required to carry out its function as preparatory body. It has therefore been suggested that the reconvened fortieth session of the Commission may reduce the time allocated to its consideration of the agenda item on administrative and budgetary matters, so as to permit the Commission as preparatory body more time to consider the important topic of alternative development at its third intersessional meeting.

7. If the reorganization of the work schedule proves feasible, the Commission would meet in the morning of 3 December, and would suspend its session until the afternoon of 4 December when it would conclude its consideration of agenda item 11 with the adoption of a resolution on the item and the adoption of its report.

8. In doing so, the Commission acting as preparatory body could then use available interpretation resources to meet in the afternoon of 3 December and in the morning of 4 December to discuss matters related to the third intersessional meeting of the Commission already scheduled for 5 December 1997, in particular the issue of alternative development.